

recipient serviced by a messaging apparatus defined within a multimedia messaging communications system, the method comprising:

receiving a destination telephone number from a subscriber of the communications system;

receiving a message intended for delivery to said destination telephone number;

routing said message to a local telephone network if said destination telephone number includes a telephone prefix code which corresponds to said local telephone network;

routing said message to a remote messaging apparatus which is coupled to a remote telephone network, if said destination telephone number includes a prefix code which corresponds to said remote telephone network; and

delivering said message by using said remote messaging apparatus to establish a local call to a telephone interface which is defined within said remote telephone network.

116. (NEW) An apparatus for delivering a message to a recipient serviced by a messaging apparatus defined within a multimedia messaging communications system, the apparatus comprising:

means for receiving a destination telephone number from a subscriber of the communications system;

means for receiving a message intended for delivery to said destination telephone number;

means for routing said message to a local telephone network if said destination telephone number includes a telephone prefix code which corresponds to said local telephone network;

b1 means for routing said message to a remote messaging apparatus which is coupled to a remote telephone network, if said destination telephone number includes a prefix code which corresponds to said remote telephone network; and

means for delivering said message by using said remote messaging apparatus to establish a local call to a telephone interface which is defined within said remote telephone network.

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